

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

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P R 171702Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 478

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK TH

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USIA PASS IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, MILI, SOPN, TH

SUBJ: PRESS CONFERENCE: U.S. MILITARY REDUCTIONS

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY ANAN PANYARACHUN TALKED WITH
NEWSMEN AFTER THE SECOND SESSION OF MARCH 17 CONSULTATIONS.
FOLLOWING IS THE UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION.

2. BEGIN TEXT

REPORTER: WHAT WAS THE MEETING ABOUT? WHAT AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN
REACHED?

ANAN: FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS STILL HAVE TO BE HELD.

REPORTER: BUT YOU SAID THE AGREEMENT.....

ANAN: NOT YET. WE MUST REACH AGREEMENT ON ALL SEVEN POINTS. WE
HAVE MADE A SEVEN-POINT PROPOSAL. FURTHERMORE, I WISH TO INFORM
YOU THAT THIS SEVEN-POINT PROPOSAL WHICH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
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AFFAIRS HANDED TO THE AMERICAN SIDE IN THE NAME OF THE THAI

GOVERNMENT WAS HANDED OVER FEB 4. THEREFORE, WE HAVE GIVEN THEM SUFFICIENT TIME. THE FIRST TIME THEY CAME AND MADE CONTACT WITH US AFTER FEB 4 WAS ABOUT LAST FRIDAY, MARCH 12. THEY MADE WHAT IS CALLED A COUNTER-PROPOSAL, THE DRAFTING OF WHICH TOOK ABOUT FIVE WEEKS. THEN, WHAT DAY WAS IT THAT THEY CAME TO MEET THE FOREIGN MINISTER? WASN'T IT MONDAY EVENING, OR MONDAY AFTERNOON? MONDAY AFTERNOON, AN APPOINTMENT WAS MADE TO MEET THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THEN TALKS WERE HELD ON THEIR NEW PROPOSAL. AFTER EXCHANGING VIEWS, THEY MADE AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET US THIS MORNING IN ORDER TO HOLD FURTHER TALKS. THEY PROPOSED SOME NEW POINTS, AND FIVE HOURS LATER THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS GAVE AN ANSWER TO THEM, WITHIN FIVZ HOURS, ONLY FIVE HOURS. THEY CAME TO MEET US THIS MORNING FROM 11 A.M. TO ABOUT MIDDAY. ISN'T THAT CORRECT? THE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON WAS IN ORDER TO GIVEN AN UNOFFICIAL ANSWER BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT, NOT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BUT IN ALL THESE NEGOTIATIONS WE ADHERE TO MAIN PRINCIPLES, WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVZD BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS AUTHORIZED TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THESE MAJOR PRINCIPLES. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS POSSESSES THE FLEXIBILITY TO AN APPROPRIATE EXTENT TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS ON THE WORDING OF THE SEVZN PRINCIPLES WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE SEVEN MAIN PRINCIPLES SPECIFIED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, THIS AFTERNOON THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONSIDERED THE POINTS THEY MADE THIS MORNING AND GAVE THEM AN UNOFFICIAL ANSWER. WE INFORMED THEM THAT THIS WAS THE RESPONSE ON THE PART OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THIS MEANS THAT A REPORT MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT LATER. IN OTHER WORDS, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DOES NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ANSWER YES OR NO AT ONCE BECAUSE THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS ONLY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THIS MATTER.

REPORTER: SUPPOSE THE MINISTRY REACHES AGREEMENT.....

ANAN: SHOULD THE MINISTRY FINISH NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SEVEN MAIN PRINCIPLES WITHIN THE LIMITS ALREADY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT, EVEN SHOULD SOME OF THE WORDING BE CAHNGED IT WOULD NOT MATTER BECAUSE IT WOULD SHOW THAT WE HAVE USED THE FLEXIBILITY AUTHORIZED US. THIS CONCERNS THE HOLDING OF NEGOTIATIONS, BECAUSE WE ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS NOT PRESENTING AN ULTIMATUM.

REPORTER: DIDN'T WE MAKE A SEVEN-POINT ULTIMATUM?

ANAN: WE HAVE NEVER EVEN DREAMED OF HANDING AN ULTIMATUM AT ALL. I DON'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL WHY EVERYBODY THINKS THAT IT IS AN ULTIMATUM. WE HAVE NEVER HANDED THEM AN ULTIMATUM AT ALL.

REPORTER: DID WE INFORM THEM?

ANAN: YES, WE INFORMED THEM.

REPORTER: BUT THE THINGS WE INFORMED THEM OF, ARE THEY PLUS OR MINUS?

ANAN: PLUS OR MINUS? IN WHAT WAY? WE TOLD THEM, AND WE ARE READY TO REACH A COMPROMISE

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HE, TOO, HAS TO NEGOTIATE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE ORDERS OR INSTRUCTIONS HE RECEIVES FROM HIS GOVERNMENT. I CAN ONLY NEGOTIATE WITHIN THE MAIN PRINCIPLES FIXED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

REPORTER: BUT WERE NO AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS?

ANAN: NOT YET. THIS WAS ONLY A RETORT. WE MADE A SEVEN-POINT PROPOSAL TO THEM, AND THEY PROPOSED FOR SUCH AND SUCH AMENDMENTS TO BE MADE. WE POINTED OUT WHAT AMENDMENTS REQUESTED ARE ACCEPTABLE AND WHICH WE CANNOT ACCEPT, OR WE MIGHT PROPOSE SOME CHANGE TO BE MADE THAT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. THIS IS HOW NEGOTIATIONS ARE HELD.

REPORTER: THEN NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED AT ALL?

ANAN: NOT YET.

REPORTER: THEN, IN THAT CASE....

ANAN: HOW CAN I ANSWER YOUR QUESTION WHEN I MYSELF DON'T
KNOW YET. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE TO BE CARRIED ON STEP BY STEP AND
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STEADILY.

REPORTER: IS THERE A DEADLINE?

ANAN: WE DID NOT FIX THE DEADLINE. THE GOVERNMENT FIXED IT IN
ITS STATEMENTS OF POLICY TO PARLIAMENT.

REPORTER: AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, WILL AGREEMENT BE REACHED?

ANAN: NEGOTIATIONS HELD BY THE MINISTRY ARE ALWAYS BRIGHT FROM
THE ANGLE OF DIPLOMATS. THEY ARE HELD AS FRIENDS, NOT AS
ENEMIES. WHEN THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS AT TIMES, TALKS
MUST BE HELD TO OVERCOME THEM. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER,
BOTH SIDES -- THE THAI SIDE AND THE AMERICAN SIDE -- MUST
BEAR UPPERMOST IN MIND THE INTERESTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE
COUNTRIES. THIS IS THE MAIN PRINCIPLE. WE, ON OUR SIDE, MUST
BEAR IN MIND THE ANGLE OF OUR COURT OF LAW, AS WELL AS PRIVILEGES
AND WHAT LEVEL OF PROTECTION SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THEIR
MEN. ALL THESE ARE SUBJECTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE MINISTRY HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS MUST BEAR
UPPERMOST IN MIND THE INTERESTS OF OUR COUNTRY, INTERESTS
REGARDING THE STABILITY OF THAI LAW AS WELL AS REGARDING THE
SOVEREIGNTY OF OUR COUNTRY. THESE ARE OUR PRINCIPLES, AND THEY
ARE THE SAME PRINCIPLES THEY MUST ADHERE TO ALSO.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED WITH NO
NEED TO MAKE ANY AMENDMENTS?

ANAN: I DON'T KNOW. WE ARE HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS AND TALKS
CONTINUALLY.

REPORTER: ON WHAT DAY DID THEY ANSWER OUR VIEWS?

ANAN: ON FRIDAY THERE WAS A COUNTER-PROPOSAL. ON MONDAY WE
INFORMED THEM WHAT WE FELT WE COULD NOT ACCEPT. WE EXPLAINED
MORE CLEARLY, THEN THEY MADE A REPORT. THIS IS HOW NEGOTIATIONS
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE CARRIED ON. THEY GO BACKWARDS AND
FORWARDS.

REPORTER: ARE DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS VERY FAR APART?

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ANAN: ON SOME MATTERS THEY ARE DRAWING NEAR, BUT ON SOME MATTERS THEY ARE STILL FAR APART.

REPORTER: ON WHAT POINTS CAN'T AGREEMENT BE REACHED? DO THEY CONCERN COURTS OF LAW?

ANAN: THAT IS ONE MATTER IN OUR SEVEN-POINT PRINCIPLES. IN OTHER WORDS, REGARDING THE POWER OF THAI COURTS OF LAW.

REPORTER: HAS ANY PROGRESS BEEN MADE?

ANAN: SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. BUT DO YOU WANT ME TO BE AN ASTROLOGER PREDICTING WHETHER AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED OR NOT? I DON'T KNOW.

REPORTER: WHAT STATUS WILL ADVISORS HAVE? DID WE REQUEST THEM?

ANAN: THERE IS STILL MISUNDERSTANDING. AMERICAN MILITARY MEN CAME AND WERE STATIONED IN THAILAND UNDER THE 1950 MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. THEY TOTAL 270 MEN AT PRESENT, AND THOSE 270 MEN ARE NO PROBLEM WE ARE FACED WITH. THEY ENJOY PRIVILEGES OR ARE PROTECTED UNDER THE 1950 AGREEMENT. THEY ARE CALLED JUSMAG AND THEY WILL CONTINUE REMAINING HERE AND ARE NOT INVOLVED. THE PROBLEM FACED IS REGARDING MILITARY TECHNICAL OFFICIALS WHO WILL BE STATIONED AT SOME SITES AFTER MARCH 20, WHETHER THEY SHOULD ENJOY PRIVILEGES AND PROTECTION AND AT WHAT LEVEL. THIS IS ONE OF THE POINTS IN THE SEVEN POINTS WE ARE CONSIDERING.

REPORTER: HOW MUST WE CONSIDER THE ANSWER WE HAVE RECEIVED?

ANAN: THEY ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT WHILE WE, ON OUR SIDE, ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER. THAT IS VERY ORDINARY.

REPORTER: WHEN WILL THEY COME AND GIVE US AN ANSWER?

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ANAN: IT DEPENDS ON HOW SOON THEY RECEIVE AN ANSWER FROM WASHINGTON. IT MIGHT BE TOMORROW, THEN WE WOULD HAVE ANOTHER MEETING IN THE AFTERNOON. IT IS SPECULATED THAT ANOTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

REPORTER: WHAT IS THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS?

ANAN: NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE HELD IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF COMPROMISE. WE DO NOT SAY THAT DIPLOMACY OR THESE NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE HELD IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COMPROMISE, BUT NATIONAL INTERESTS MUST BE PLACED ABOVE ALL ELSE. NATIONAL INTERESTS ARE THE MAIN PRINCIPLE OF OUR COUNTRY. THEY HAVE REQUESTED US TO CHANGE IT, BUT WE CANNOT DO SO. BUT COMPROMISES COULD BE REACHED REGARDING THE WORDING. COMPROMISES COULD BE MADE REGARDING CHANGING THE LANGUAGE IN ORDER TO MAKE IT CLEARER OR TO EXPLAIN MORE CLEARLY WHAT WE MEAN BY THE PRINCIPLES DEMANDED IN ORDER FOR BOTH SIDES TO HAVE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THEM.

REPORTER: TO WHAT EXTENT WILL WE GIVE THEM PRIVILEGES?

ANAN: THEY MUST ENJOY SOME PRIVILEGES SUCH AS HAVING THE STATUS OF EMBASSY OFFICIALS AT A CERTAIN LEVEL BECAUSE THEY ARE OFFICIALS
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WHO ARE TECHNICAL EXPERTS. SUPPOSE, FOR EXAMPLE, MEN ARE SENT HERE UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN TO HELP IN A COLOMBO PLAN PROJECT IN THAILAND, THEY MUST ENJOY SOME PRIVILEGES AND PROTECTION. THE QUESTION IS: AT WHAT LEVEL SHOULD THE PRIVILEGES AND PROTEC-

TION PROVIDED THEM BE? THIS IS THE MATTER ON WHICH WE MUST HOLD NEGOTIATIONS. BUT WHAT IS DEFINITE IS THAT PRIVILEGES AND PROTECTION THEY ENJOY MUST NOT BE AT DIPLOMATIC LEVEL.

REPORTER: IS THIS ONE POINT ON WHICH AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED?

ANAN: AGREEMENT MUST BE REACHED ON ALL SEVEN POINTS. IT CANNOT BE SAID THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON THIS OR THAT POINT. WE MUST WAIT AND SEE THE VERY LAST RESULTS, WHAT RESULTS WILL BE OBTAINED FROM ALL SEVEN POINTS. THE PROBLEM STILL FACED IS BECAUSE FULL AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED YET. THEREFORE, NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL CONTINUING, AND BOTH SIDES ARE STILL EXCHANGING VIEWS. WE INFORM THEM WHAT PART CANNOT BE CHANGE OR WHAT PART CAN BE CHANGED OR IF THE OTHER SIDE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THIS OR THAT THAT PART, WE WILL REWRITE IT MORE CLEARLY.

REPORTER: HAS THE MINISTRY INFORMED THEM THAT THEY MUST BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN BY MARCH 20?

ANAN: WHAT STATEMENT DID THE PRIME MINISTER MAKE IN HIS NEWS CONFERENCE ON THAT SUBJECT? WHAT IS STATED IN THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED ON MARCH 9? GO AND READ IT AGAIN. THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS WRITTEN CLEARLY IN THAT ANNOUNCEMENT.

REPORTER: HAS AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE COME TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS AND TALKS HIMSELF EVERY TIME?

ANAN: OF COURSE.

REPORTER: WAS HE ACCOMPAINED BY MR. MASTERS?

ANAN: YES. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THREE OFFICIALS. BUT AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE WILL NOT BE HERE TOMORROW.

REPORTER: HAVE YOU ALWAYS REPORTED TO AND INFORMED THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF TALKS HELD?

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ANAN: OF COURSE. I AM ONLY HIS REPRESENTATIVE. I AM A CAREER OFFICIAL, AND I HAVE TO IMPLEMENT GOVERNMENT POLICY.

REPORTER: IF AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE IS NOT HERE IN BANGKOK, WILL MR. MASTERS BE HIS REPRESENTATIVE?

ANAN: MOST PROBABLY. YOU OUGHT TO GO AND ASK THE AMERICAN SIDE. I DON'T KNOW, SO HOW CAN I INFORM YOU WHO WILL COME HERE? WHAT REASON DO YOU HAVE FOR BELIEVING THAT THE ATMOSPHERE IS NOT GOOD. IT IS EXCELLENT. I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THE ATMOSPHERE IS ALWAYS GOOD WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ARE HELD WITH ANYBODY AND EVERYBODY.

WHEN HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA, THE ATMOSPHERE IS ALWAYS
GOOD. NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUSSIA ARE HELD IN A GOOD ATMOSPHERE.
WHEN THE MONGOLIAN GOODWILL MISSION COMES HERE, TALKS AND
NEGOTIATIONS HELD WITH IT WILL BE IN A GOOD ATMOSPHERE. TALKS
WITH CAMBODIA AND TALKS WITH LAOS ARE IN A GOOD ATMOSPHERE. WHEN
WE MEET THAIS, TALKS ARE IN A GOOD ATMOSPHERE.
END TEXT
WHITEHOUSE

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